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# CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE QUESTIONS OF: TORTURE AND DETENTION

## United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

## Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. ANNUAL REPORTS

1. In conformity with arrangements adopted by the General Assembly for the management of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture, the Secretary-General draws up an annual report to the General Assembly, indicating the funds available, pledges made and contributions received, together with disbursements from the Fund (resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981).

2. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2000/43 of 20 April 2000 (para. 41), requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed on an annual basis of the operations of the Fund. The previous report of the Secretary-General to the Commission (E/CN.4/2000/60 and Add.1) is available to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session. The present report, drawn up on 16 December 2000, complements and updates the annual report, prepared on 13 July 2000 (A/55/178), submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session under agenda item 114 (a).

## II. FINANCIAL STATUS

### A. Grants paid or pending or allocated for urgent assistance

3. At its nineteenth session (15-26 May 2000), the Board of Trustees of the Fund had recommended that, for the period June 2000-May 2001, grants of a little over US$ 7 million (A/55/178, para. 11, and press release HR/00/40 of 21 June 2000) should be awarded to medical, psychological, social, legal, humanitarian and other assistance programmes around the world for victims of torture and members of their families. On 15 June 2000, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights approved these grants on behalf of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 12). As on 15 December 2000, based on information available to the Office of the High Commissioner, the amount of grants paid since 13 July 2000 was US$ 5.2 million. Approximately US$ 760,000 has been paid since that time in the form of grants which have been withheld pending satisfactory additional information. Some US$ 355,000, allocated for grants still pending, could be paid before the Board's next session (18 May-1 June 2001), if the additional information requested by the Board or the Fund secretariat has been received from the organizations concerned and deemed to be satisfactory by the secretariat. A list of organizations financed by the Fund in 2000 may be found in table 4 (ibid., para. 15). In addition, an amount of US$ 300,000 has been allocated, prior to the next Board session, to meet requests for urgent assistance from victims of torture in countries lacking appropriate treatment facilities and to assist victims of amputation and mutilation coming from Sierra Leone (ibid., para. 14, and annex II, section VI, para. 31). A second category of grants, totalling US$ 400,000, has also been set aside for organizations which might experience financial difficulties prior to the next Board session (ibid., para. 14, and annex II, section VII, para. 30).

### B. Contributions paid

4. The contributions received in time for allocation at the nineteenth session of the Board are shown in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/55/178, para. 6, table 1). Contributions that had not been officially recorded by the Treasurer of the United Nations before the nineteenth session and were recorded afterwards are shown in table 1 below, drawn up on 15 December 2000 from the information available to the Office of the

High Commissioner. The Board will take them into consideration at its twentieth session, together with any others that are duly recorded before 18 May 2001. Contributions paid after 15 December 2000 will be reflected in an addendum to the present report.

**Table 1. Paid contributions that will be taken into consideration at the nineteenth session of the Board of Trustees**

| State | Amount (US$) | Recorded | Intended for | Contribution No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andorra | 2 650 | 31.05.00 | 1999 | 6 |
| " | 8 300 | 15.11.00 | 2000 | 7 |
| Cameroon | 6 783 | 15.11.00 | 2001 | 4 |
| Chile | 10 000 | 30.05.00 | 2000 | 8 |
| Cyprus | 770 | 31.10.00 | 2000 | 12 |
| Iran (Islamic Rep. of) | 867 | 10.10.00 | | 1 |
| Japan | 60,000 | 09.06.00 | 2000 | 15 |
| Malta | 1 500 | 13.09.00 | 2000 | 6 |
| New Zealand | 12 438 | October 2000 | 2000 | 14 |
| Philippines | 613[a] | 31.10.00 | 1999 | 4 |
| Poland | 10,000 | 24.10.00 | 2001 | 2 |
| Rep. of Korea | 10,000 | 01.09.00 | 2000 | 6 |
| Spain | 37,400 | 27.09.00 | 2000 | 15 |
| Sri Lanka | 1,000 | 29.06.00 | 2000 | 9 |
| Tunisia | 2,000 | 31.07.00 | 1999 | 9 |
| Turkey | 5,000 | 29.09.00 | 2000 | 2 |
| United Nations staff at Geneva | 13,397 | 19.04.00 | 1998 | 1 |
| Mr. D. Prémont | 117 | 29.05.00 | 2000 | 2 |
| **TOTAL** | **182 835** | | | |

[a] Partial payment of its pledge for 1999 (see note to table 2).

## C. Pledges

5. Donor Governments make pledges to the Fund in the following ways:

(a) Directly by letter to the Office of the High Commissioner, copied to the secretariat of the Fund (for the address, see para. 30 below);

(b) At the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in New York in the first week of each November;

(c) At the annual session of the Commission;

(d) At the briefings for regular donors organized by the Fund secretariat;

(e) At the meeting between donors and members of the Board, held on the last day of the annual session in May (the next meeting should take place on 1 June 2001);

(f) When a State party to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment submits a report to the Committee Against Torture.

6. As on 15 December 2000, according to information available to the Office of the High Commissioner, the following pledges had been made:

**Table 2. Pledges**

| State | Amount (US$) | Intended for | Announced on | Contribution No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Algeria | 5 000 | 2001 | 01.11.00 | 10 |
| Belgium | 64 327 | 2000 | 15.12.00 | 11 |
| Brazil | 10 000 | 1995 | 20.12.94 | 7 |
| " | 10 000 | 1996 | 01.11.95 | 8 |
| " | 10 000 | 1998 | 04.11.97 | 9 |
| Chile | 10 000 | 2001 | 01.11.00 | 9 |
| Cyprus | 2 174 | 2001 | 01.11.00 | 13 |
| Germany | 113 219 | 2000[a] | 10.04.00 | 19 |
| Italy | 117 855 | 1999[b] | 08.12.00 | 11 |
| | 117 855 | 2000[b] | 08.12.00 | 12 |
| | 117 855 | 2001 | 05.07.00 | 13 |
| Monaco | 10 000 | 2001 | 01.11.00 | 8 |
| Philippines | 1 982[c] | 1999 | 04.11.98 | 5 |
| " | 2 800 | 2000 | 01.02.99 | 6 |
| Tunisia | 1 393 | 2000 | 01.11.00 | 10 |
| Turkey | 5 000 | 2001 | 01.11.00 | 3 |
| United Kingdom | 216 666 | 1999 | 02.02.99 | 12[d] |
| **TOTAL** | **816 126** | | | |

[a] According to the Government, a contribution of DM 250,000 was paid on 30 June 2000. According to information available to the Office of the High Commissioner, however, the official receipt of the United Nations Treasurer has not yet been provided.

[b] According to its letter dated 8 December 2000 and received on 15 December 2000 by the Office of the High Commissioner, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has ordered the payment of Lit 464,705,000, corresponding to € 240,000, for the years 1999 and 2000.

[c] US$ 613 was paid on 31 October 2000 as partial payment for 1999 (see note to table 1).

[d] Contribution paid in August 1999 to the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in New York, according to information provided by the Government. The official receipt from the Treasurer has not yet been received by OHCHR. The thirteenth contribution, for 2000, has been duly recorded and is included in table 1 of document A/55/178.

7. Any contribution officially recorded by the Treasurer of the United Nations after 18 May 2001 will be reflected in the accounts for the following session (May 2002). The Board adopts its funding recommendations on the basis of the contributions actually paid and duly recorded in the Fund's account by the Treasurer; it does not take pledges into consideration.

## III. FUND-RAISING

8. The General Assembly, by its resolution 55/89 of 4 December 2000, the Commission, by its resolution 2000/43 (para. 36) of 20 April 2000, the Committee against Torture, the Board of Trustees of the Fund, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on questions relating to torture and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as stated in the joint declaration and message on the occasion of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June 2000 (A/55/178, annex I, section A, paras. 3 and 4), expressed their gratitude and appreciation to those Governments, organizations and individuals that had contributed to the Fund. The United Nations bodies particularly concerned with issues relating to torture encouraged donors that had already contributed to the Fund to continue such contributions, if possible with a substantial increase, in order to take into consideration the ever-increasing requests for assistance. They also appealed to Governments, organizations and individuals to contribute regularly to the Fund, if possible on an annual basis, preferably by 1 March of each year, so that their contributions could be duly recorded and available for allocation at the Board's following session or, in any event, before the Board's annual meeting (i.e., for 2001, before 18 May).

9. The Secretary-General was requested to transmit this appeal to all Governments. In her letter of 18 October 2000, the High Commissioner drew the attention of all Governments to the appeal for contributions launched by the General Assembly, the Commission and the other sponsors of the joint declaration. She stated that funding requests for 2001 were anticipated to amount to US$ 12 million. She urged Governments in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund or substantially to increase their contributions, preferably by 1 March 2001, before the next session of the Board.

10. Every year, the secretariat of the Fund organizes technical briefings for interested regular donors in Geneva. One such briefing was held on 15 December 2000 in Geneva, with the participation of representatives of the following permanent missions: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom. At this briefing, up-to-date information on the amounts available, payments received, pledges and disbursements were presented and the secretariat of the Fund and of the Board answered questions.

11. In its resolution 36/151, in which it established the Fund, the General Assembly authorized the Board to promote and solicit contributions and pledges. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to give the Board all the assistance it might require. The Board comprises Mr. Jaap Walkate (Chair), Mr. Ribot Hatano, Ms. Elizabeth Odio-Benito, Mr. Ivan Tosevski and Mr. Amos Wako. The Board members have the opportunity to solicit contributions at the annual meeting with representatives of the permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, generally held on the last day of the Board's session. The Commission has introduced the practice of inviting the Chair or a Board member, if they are

present in Geneva during the Commission's session in March/April, to submit to the Commission, under the relevant agenda item, an update on the financial situation of the Fund and to encourage participants to pay their contributions before the Board meeting in May; this was done by Mr. Tosevski on 5 April 2000. The Board Chair, when making field visits to projects, also endeavours to meet the appropriate foreign ministry officials and to encourage them to contribute to the Fund.

12. The General Assembly, by its resolution 55/89, stressed the importance of the work of the Board and requested the Secretary-General to assist the Board in its appeal for contributions and in its efforts to make better known the existence of the Fund and the financial means currently available to it and, to that end, to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials (para. 25). The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of adequate staff and facilities for the operation of the Board and of the Fund (para. 26).

## IV. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR 2001

### A. Requests received and grants awarded (1993-2000)

13. In order to take into account the disparity between the requests for grants and the available resources which could be allocated for such grants (see table 3 below), as well as the constant upgrading of the projects submitted for funding and the increasing amount of grant funding allocated each year, for several years, the Board has recommended that virtually the total amount should be awarded. As a result, all that is left for the following year is the compulsory reserve, which, in accordance with the United Nations rules applicable to voluntary contributions for humanitarian purposes, is set at 15 per cent of the amount available for grants (see A/55/178, para. 11).

**Table 3. Comparison of grants requested and grants awarded (1993-2000)**

| Year | Requested (US$) | Awarded (US$) | Percentage awarded | Additional amount requested (US$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 10 000 000<br>(+ 1 748 140) | 7 000 000<br>(+ 1 921 500) | 70 | 3 000 000 |
| 1999 | 8 251 860<br>(+ 1 451 860) | 5 078 500<br>(+ 868 500) | 61.50 | 3 173 360 |
| 1998 | 6 800 000 | 4 210 000<br>(+ 1 173 946) | 61.90 | 2 590 000 |
| 1997 | 6 800 000<br>(+ 1 181 355) | 3 036 054<br>(+ 500 554) | 44.64 | 3 763 946 |
| 1996 | 5 618 645 | 2 535 500 | 45.10 | 3 083 145 |
| 1995 | 5 827 645 | 2 719 680 | 46.60 | 3 107 965 |
| 1994 | 5 476 959 | 3 698 080<br>(+ 1 587 000) | 67.50 | 1 778 879 |
| 1993 | 5 289 413 | 2 111 880 | 39.90 | 3 177 533 |

**B. Estimated needs for 2001**

14. In assessing the needs of the Fund for 2001, the secretariat has followed the Board's recommendation at its nineteenth session that the assessment should be realistic and based on, first, admissible requests for grants submitted to the Fund for 2001; second, resources available for the twentieth session; third, the total grants awarded in the previous year; fourth, pledges made; and, fifth, new contributions expected from regular donors which have not yet paid or pledged.

15. If the upward trend observed since 1997 continued (see table 3 above), the Board estimated that the total amount requested from the Fund in 2001 would reach almost US$ 12 million (see A/55/178, para. 16). The increase in requests from 1999 to 2000 is approximately US$ 1.8 million.

16. As on 15 December 2000, total new contributions paid since 15 May 2000 amounted to a mere US$ 180,835 (see table 1 above) and pledges received by the same date to only US$ 816,126 (see table 2 above).

17. In the light of its experience since 1982, the Board believes that regular appeals to donors and a steady increase in contributions will enable the Fund to perform its activities effectively.

18. In paragraph 40 of its resolution 2000/43, the Commission called on the Board to present an updated assessment of the global need for international funding of rehabilitation services for victims of torture. The Board considered this request at its nineteenth session. It felt that it did not have the necessary information to make a realistic assessment of global funding needs for rehabilitation services for victims of torture, other than those which it had submitted to the Fund (see paras. 14-16 above). As, however, the Board's guidelines provide that the Fund should not in principle finance more than one third of the budget of any project submitted to it, the Board might respond that, if the above trend continues in 2001, organizations which have submitted a request to the Fund should approach other donors for the approximately US$ 24 million needed to finance the remaining two thirds. It should also be noted that the Fund finances medical, psychological, social, economic, legal, humanitarian or direct emergency assistance programmes for victims of torture and members of their families, as well as certain vocational training programmes, and not only rehabilitation programmes.

19. The Commission also called upon the Board, in the same paragraph of its resolution, to assess the lessons learned from the activities of the Fund, an exercise that it performs every year when it adopts or reviews its guidelines. The Board presented the lessons learnt from the activities of the Fund to donors at their annual meeting. In May 2000, it also presented these lessons at a meeting with all permanent missions to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva. Salient points of these lessons drawn from the activities of the Fund over the last few years are highlighted by the Board in the procedures and guidelines of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Use of Organizations, as revised by the Board on 26 May 2000 (see A/55/178, annex II).

20. Addressing the International Association for Humanitarian Medicine at Palermo, Italy, on 18 November 2000, the Chair of the Board, Mr. Walkate, said that the number of victims of torture and members of their families needing assistance was, of course, unknown, but probably

measured hundreds of thousands across the world. The majority of those were not receiving any treatment at all. Others only had the chance of treatment if they were able to find specialized rehabilitation centres, which were mostly being established in Western countries, because of the increasing number of refugees. The exact amount necessary to fund the assistance that they needed was not known. He pointed out that, under article 14 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, States parties were obliged to ensure, in their legal systems, that the victims of an act of torture obtained redress and fair and adequate compensation, including the means for as full rehabilitation as possible. In reality, however, victims were not often in a position to take the necessary steps against Governments to obtain such compensation. It could be argued, he said, that the General Assembly had assumed a sort of collective responsibility for the rehabilitation of victims of torture in establishing the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in 1981, with a view to soliciting contributions and distributing them by established assistance pathways. The Fund depended totally on voluntary contributions from Governments, organizations and individuals. It received no financial support from the United Nations regular budget. Over the last 20 years, between 30 and 40 States had become regular and generous donors, enabling the Fund to meet the ever-increasing number of requests for grants from more than 150 non-governmental organizations, rehabilitation centres and other assistance programmes in almost 50 countries and to award almost US$ 7 million in grants in 2000, while the total amount of grants requested came to nearly US$ 10 million. He said that the total amount available for grants had been allocated and that new grant funding would be needed for 2001.

## V. HOW TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

21. Governments, individuals and organizations wishing to make a contribution to the Fund, can do so as follows:

(a) **By bank transfer** to the United Nations Geneva General Fund:

**In New York**, in United States dollars,
c/o Chase Manhattan Bank, New York,
A/c: 001-1-508629, UNOG General Fund,
G/L: UN-0503456,
United States Banking Code: 021000021

**In Geneva**, in United States dollars, c/o UBS AG,
PO Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2,
A/c: 240-CO-590-160.1

Or in Swiss francs, c/o UBS AG,
PO Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2,
A/c: 240-CO-590-160.0,
Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A

(b) By **cheque** made out to the "United Nations", to:

The Treasurer, United Nations Office at Geneva,
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10.

22. In all cases, please specify: "Payee: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, **a/c CH**".

23. For any further information on the Fund, please contact the secretariat of the Fund, Funds for Voluntary Contributions (Support Services Branch), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson; postal address: United Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10; tel: +41 22 917 9315; fax: +41 22 917 9017; e-mail: dpremont.hchr@unog.ch.

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